

# LITERARY SHORT LIST

The finalists for Australia's richest literary prizes, the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, have been announced. More than 190 titles were entered and the total prize money has been increased to \$52,500.

## The Vance Palmer Prize for a Work of Fiction

which carries a cash prize of \$15,000

*Whacker* by Peter Carey (University of Queensland Press)

*Lian's Story* by Kate Grenville (Allen & Unwin)

*Woman of Story* by Christina Stead (Penguin Books)

*Orderline* by Janet Turner Hospital (Hodder Stoughton)

*That Eye, The Sky* by Tim Winton (McPhee Gribble)

## The Nettie Palmer Prize for a Work of Non-Fiction

cash prize of \$15,000)

*Days of Wrath: A life of John Dunmore Lang* by D.W.A. Baker (Melbourne University Press)

*Wild Angels* by John Bryson (Penguin Books)

*Clapping the Paddocks* by Chester Eagle (McPhee Gribble/Penguin)

## The Premier's Award for Poetry

cash prize of \$7,500)

*Freedom to Breathe* by Peter Kocan (Angus & Robertson)

*Songs from a Peach Melba Hat* by Shelton Leabalone (Balone Press)

*Washing the Money* by Rhyl McMaster (Angus Robertson)

*Clair* by John A. Scott (University of Queensland Press)

## The Premier's Award for Drama

cash prize of \$7,500)

*No Young for Ghosts* by Janis Balodis (Currency Press)

*Money Spot* by Jack Davis (unpublished)

*The Hour Before My Mother Dies* by Daniel Gene (unpublished)

*Legends* by John Romeril, Jennifer Hill and Chris Anastasiades (Yackandandah Playscripts)

The Chairman of the Premier's Literary Awards Committee, Bruce Grant, said this year a special award of \$7,500 would be made in the Australian studies category for a work which made a major and innovative contribution to the understanding of Australian society or culture. The judges in each category would nominate authors for this award and the winner would be decided by the Premier's Literary Awards Committee.

The Premier, John Cain, will announce the winners at the presentation dinner on 2 October in the ANZ Pavilion of the Arts Centre. The guest speaker at the presentation dinner will be the distinguished poet, novelist and short story writer David Malouf, winner of the 1985 Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction.

# GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The Australian Government Publishing Service — AACOBS Liaison Committee met in May for the first time in nearly two years. During this time AGPS has adopted a corporate plan aimed at improving internal efficiency and is now hoping to be able to introduce a number of changes:

- production of cataloguing copy to a higher standard
- publication of a forward list of those titles AGPS will be marketing
- major changes to AGPS financing. At present this is from an appropriation, plus a publications trust account, plus a government printing trust account. It is planned that from 1 July 1986 there be a single trust account with the appropriation one line within that. This will give AGPS much greater flexibility and enhance its ability to make cost recoveries to the government. The result should be a much more market-orientated publisher.

The secretary of the Committee carried out a survey of libraries to seek comments on the AGPS Annual Catalogue. Many responses were critical of its bulk (and hence price), and saw a need for improved indexing. With the likely changes to AGPS financing, which till now has contained the format of its catalogues, and a new Director, Publishing, suggestions for improvements to all the AGPS catalogues would be welcome.

A second survey of libraries canvassed titles thought suitable for microform publication. Many libraries stressed they wished to continue to receive hardcopy, seeing microform suitable mainly for backsets or second sets. Titles suggested more than ten times for possible microform publication were

- reports and associated material from Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Committees
- Parliamentary papers (including the H.R. Misc. series, currently not readily available)
- Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

Copies of the brief reports on these two surveys are available from me or from the Secretary of the Committee (Michael Harrington, AGPS GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601).

Finally, the AGPS *Style Manual* is being completely rewritten. Preparation has been delayed, and publication is now hoped in early 1988.

Peter Clayton

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Canberra College of Advanced Education



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